



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Wenxi HUANG et al.
Title: PHOTOCROSSLINKED HYDROGEL
BLEND SURFACE COATINGS
Appl. No.: 10/802,039
Filing Date: 03/17/2004
Examiner: Melanie J. Yu
Art Unit: 1641

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed February 15, 2005, Applicants hereby provisionally elects Group III, Claims 51 – 70, for examination, with traverse.

The Examiner has required restriction between Claims 1 – 20 (Group I), drawn to a hydrogel polymer blend, Claims 21 – 50, 82, 86 and 92 (Group II), drawn to a hydrogel polymer comprising a synthetic second polymer, Claims 51 – 70 (Group III), drawn to a substrate comprising a substrate surface and hydrogel polymer blend, Claims 71 – 81 (Group IV) drawn to a method for functionalizing a surface, Claim 83 (Group V), drawn to a method for detecting a biomolecular analyte, Claim 84 (Group VI), drawn to a crosslinked blend comprising a polysaccharide, Claim 85 (Group VII), drawn to a hydrogel precursor polymer blend, Claims 87 – 91 (Group VIII), drawn to a hydrogel polymer blend comprising one or more functionalities for selectively binding a biomolecular analyte, Claim 93 (Group IX), drawn to a hydrogel polymer blend comprising a first and second polymer photocrosslinked to each other, and Claim 94 (Group X), drawn to a hydrogel polymer blend comprising reactive groups.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 13 May 2005

By S. A. Bent

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